

[8 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Request of Andhra Pradesh Government for Funds for Rural Development schemes

1932. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government to release an amount of Rs. 200 crores under various schemes of rural development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has considered sanctioning any amount in this regard due to severe drought conditions prevailing in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged for release of an amount of Rs. 252.63 crores under various Schemes of Rural Development in the Memorandum submitted to Government of India. Out of this, Rs. 70.63 crores is for Social Security and Rs. 182.00 crores is for wage employment.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Agriculture has deputed a Central Team of Officers for visiting the drought affected areas of the State and submitting a Report for facilitating a decision on the quantum of assistance to be provided. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Rural Development has recommended to the Department of Food & Consumer Affairs on 6th August 2001 for release of 3 lakh tonnes of rice to Andhra Pradesh under the Food for Work Programme.

Audit of Department of Wasteland

1933. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the year in which the Wasteland Department was created;

(b) whether the Principal Director of Audit, Economic and Service Ministries, New Delhi have carried out the audit;

(c) if so, the period upto which the audit has been carried out;

(d) the details of the audit report of work done in Gujarat during the last two years; and

(e) the objections raised against organisations funded for the development of wasteland?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) The Department of Wastelands Development was created in July, 1992 under the Ministry of Rural Development. In April, 1999 it was renamed as Department of Land Resources and Land Reforms Division, Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDPO) were brought within its purview.

(b) and (c) The Principal Director of Audit, Economic and Service Ministries, New Delhi have carried out the audit of the Department upto the financial year 1999-2000.

(d) The audit report pertaining to implementation of DPAP in Gujarat mainly pointed out that:

(a) In identified districts, funds were diverted to other schemes/activities not connected with the programme, and

(b) Funds were parked in Personal Ledger Account (PLA) with Treasury.

(e) Organisations where objections have been raised are Agro-Forestry Federation (AFF), Nasik and Army Foundation for Environment Conservation (AFEC). It was observed by the audit that AFEC had no past experience and AFF was not directly involved in wastelands development.

Extension of Food for Work Programme

1934. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Food for Work Programme extended till